

school's reputation as a national and international leader in the field of medical education. His loyalty to generations of students, combined with his respect for them as adult learners, is truly commendable. In addition, Dr. Obenshain's commitment to education is evidenced in his pioneering work to improve learning by creating a curriculum that is student-centered and problem-based.

The leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has demonstrated at the University of New Mexico School of medicine has also had a wide impact on the quality of undergraduate medical education. Students are treated with the highest respect, and Dr. Obenshain has set a tone of excellence in the education of our students. His example has left a lasting impression on innumerable graduates of our medical school. The innovations he began at the University of New Mexico have served as models for other schools both in the United States and around the world, and many institutions have benefited from the leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has provided over the years.

Finally, Dr. Obenshain has demonstrated continuing dedication to meeting the needs of poor, rural, and underserved communities in New Mexico, and has steadfastly achieved this by including such populations in the primary care curriculum. For example, he implemented the rural clinical practice component for fourth year medical students in 1974, which became a requirement for all students soon thereafter.

Dr. Scott Obenshain is honored today in the Senate because he has served selflessly and widely, and because he has led with distinction.●

OREGON HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, in every sense of the word, Dr. Allen Merritt is a true health care hero for the State of Oregon. Dr. Merritt is not only a caring and compassionate pediatrician, but also a tireless and dedicated volunteer. His work to serve the physical and mental health needs of children, as well as his work to help enact important state initiatives on behalf of children, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Merritt has practiced medicine at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, OR, for the last 7 years. Although Dr. Merritt received his medical degree from the University of Kansas, his entry into the Oregon medical community began at Lewis and Clark University where he received a Certificate in Health Care Administration. Dr. Merritt later received a Masters of Public Administration in Health Care Administration at Portland State University.

In Bend, Dr. Merritt serves multiple organizations dedicated to the well-being of children in Deschutes County and throughout the State. Most notably, Dr. Merritt serves on the Oregon Commission for Children and Families and is a reviewer for the Oregon Board

of Medical Examiners. Besides serving children as a pediatrician and respected state leader, Dr. Merritt has also dedicated his time and effort to numerous community charities including Project Stepping Stones, which promotes infant hearing screenings; The Boys and Girls Club; and, Deschutes County Children's Foundation.

As the 2003 recipient of the Oregon Medical Association's Doctor-Citizen of the Year Award, Dr. Merritt was recognized for his immeasurable contributions to health care in the state of Oregon. For dedicating his life's work to the improvement of health care I would like to again recognize Dr. Allen Merritt as an Oregon Health Care Hero.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight a small band of employees in my home State who deserve special recognition for the consistent high quality work they do. I am proud and pleased to honor Michelle Thibodeau, Chief of the Disability Determination Services office in Helena, MT, and her entire staff. Special recognition must also go to Cathy Surdock who works on youth claims and has been singled out for her excellence.

My constituents who face disabilities depend on those at the Disability Determination Services office to evaluate their claims and issue a fair and timely decision. Issuing these decisions quickly is of the utmost importance and makes a real difference to a lot of Montanans. The regional Social Security Administration Commissioner in Denver has recognized Montana's Disability Determination Services office for having the Nation's best processing time for claims. The Helena office averages 68 days processing time as compared to the national average of 110 days. This important honor is for work accomplished during Federal fiscal year 2002. This office won the same award for fiscal year 1999. Additionally, in 2001, they were awarded the Commissioner's Citation for Quality. Michelle's office reviews about 12,000 claims for benefits each year, 2000 of which involve children.

This award recognizes the staff "for exemplary performance in accuracy, timeliness and productivity in providing exceptional service to Montana's citizens with disabilities." Montanans that find themselves physically and mentally challenged are grateful for the heroic steps that Michelle's staff has taken to address their needs in a timely fashion. The professionalism, compassion and technical expertise exhibited by the dedicated staff at the Disability Determination Services office is an example for us all.

In closing, I would like to offer my congratulations to Michelle, Cathy and the entire crew at Disability Deter-

mination Services and also my thanks for the good work you do daily. This is just another example of neighbor helping neighbor in the great State of Montana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3. An act to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion.

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on today, October 23, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1781. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 23, 2003, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4882. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers,